AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-3. **(Canceled)**

4. **(Currently Amended)** A liquid detoxification method for purifying a liquid by removing microbes ~~in untreated~~ from the liquid, said liquid detoxification method comprising ~~steps for~~:

applying a microbe-separation treatment by filtration or centrifugal separation for removing comparatively large microbes present in ~~said~~ the liquid, said applying of the microbe-separation treatment by filtration ~~being performed by~~ comprising running ~~said~~ the liquid through a filter ~~or the like~~;

applying either one of chlorination or oxidization, said applying of the chlorination ~~being performed by~~ comprising producing a chlorine-containing substance from ~~said~~ the liquid and feeding ~~said~~ the chlorine-containing substance into ~~said~~ the liquid to thereby kill microbes, and said applying of the oxidization ~~being performed by~~ comprising adding an oxidizing substance to ~~said~~ the liquid; and

storing treated liquid into a tank for treated liquid.

5. **(Currently Amended)** The liquid detoxification method according to claim 4, further ~~comprising a step for~~ comprising:

applying a mechanical-treatment to ~~said~~ the liquid for damaging microbes therein to thereby ~~to~~ kill microbes before or after said ~~step for~~ applying of the ~~a~~ microbe-separation treatment.

6-9. **(Canceled)**

10. **(Currently Amended)** A detoxification method for purifying ~~untreated~~ seawater by removing microbes ~~in untreated~~ from the seawater, said detoxification method comprising ~~steps for~~:

applying a microbe-separation treatment by filtration or centrifugal separation for removing comparatively large microbes present in ~~said~~ the seawater, said applying of the micro-separation

treatment by filtration comprising ~~being performed by~~ running ~~said~~ the seawater through a filter ~~or the like~~;

applying either one of chlorination or oxidization, said applying of the chlorination ~~being performed by~~ comprising producing a chlorine-containing substance from ~~said~~ the seawater and adding the chlorine-containing substance into ~~said~~ the seawater to thereby kill microbes, and applying of said oxidization comprising ~~being performed by~~ adding an oxidizing substance to ~~said~~ the seawater; and

storing treated seawater into a ballast water tank.

11-14. **(Canceled)**

15. **(Currently Amended)** A detoxification apparatus for purifying a liquid by removing microbes ~~in untreated~~ from the liquid ~~containing untreated seawater~~, said detoxification apparatus comprising:

a microbe-separation unit that applies a microbe-separation treatment by filtration or centrifugal separation for removing comparatively large microbes present in ~~said~~ the liquid, the ~~said~~ filtration being performed by running ~~said~~ the liquid through a filter ~~or the like~~;

either one of chlorination means or oxidization means, said chlorination means for producing a chlorine-containing substance from ~~said~~ the liquid and feeding ~~said~~ the chlorine-containing substance into ~~said~~ the liquid to thereby kill microbes, and said oxidization means for adding an oxidizing substance to ~~said~~ the liquid; and

a tank for storing treated liquid.

16. **(Currently Amended)** The detoxification apparatus ~~for purifying liquid~~ according to claim 15, further comprising:

a mechanical treatment unit for applying a mechanical treatment to ~~said~~ the liquid to damage and kill microbes present in ~~said~~ the liquid before or after said microbe-separation unit applies the microbe-separation treatment.

17-21. **(Canceled)**

22. **(Currently Amended)** A detoxification method for purifying seawater stored in a ballast water tank by removing microbes from the ~~in~~ seawater ~~stored in a ballast water tank~~, said detoxification method comprising ~~steps for~~:

applying a microbe-separation treatment by filtration or centrifugal separation for removing comparatively large microbes present in ~~said~~ seawater, said applying of the microbe-separation treatment by filtration comprising ~~being performed by~~ running ~~said~~ the seawater through a filter ~~or the like~~;

applying either one of chlorination or oxidization, said applying of the chlorination ~~being performed by~~ comprising producing a chlorine-containing substance from ~~said~~ the seawater and feeding ~~said~~ the chlorine-containing substance into ~~said~~ the seawater to thereby kill microbes, and said applying of the oxidization ~~being performed by~~ comprising adding an oxidizing substance to ~~said~~ the seawater; and

discharging treated seawater out of ~~said~~ the ballast water tank.

23. **(Currently Amended)** A detoxification method for purifying seawater stored in a ballast water tank by removing microbes ~~in~~ from the seawater ~~stored in a ballast water tank~~, said detoxification method comprising ~~steps for~~:

applying a microbe-separation treatment by filtration or centrifugal separation for removing comparatively large microbes present in ~~said~~ the seawater, said applying of the microbe-separation treatment by filtration comprising ~~being performed by~~ running ~~said~~ the seawater through a filter ~~or the like~~;

applying either one of chlorination or oxidization, said applying of the chlorination comprising ~~being performed by~~ producing a chlorine-containing substance from ~~said~~ the seawater and feeding ~~said~~ the chlorine-containing substance into the ~~said~~ seawater to thereby kill microbes, and said applying of the oxidization comprising ~~being performed by~~ adding an oxidizing substance to the ~~said~~ seawater; and

circulating ~~said~~ the seawater to ~~said~~ the ballast water tank.

24. **(Currently Amended)** The detoxification method ~~for purifying seawater~~ according to claim 22, further ~~comprising a step for~~ comprising:

applying a mechanical-treatment to ~~said~~ the seawater for damaging microbes in ~~said~~ the seawater to thereby to kill microbes before or after said ~~step for~~ applying of the microbe-separation treatment.

25. **(Currently Amended)** The detoxification method ~~for purifying seawater~~ according to claim 22,

wherein said applying of the chlorination comprises applying the chlorination ~~is performed~~ in an electrolytic circulation system in which all or part of ~~said~~ the seawater stored in ~~said~~ the ballast water tank is introduced into a storing tank and circulated through a circulation line between ~~said~~ the storing tank and an electrolyzer for electrolyzing ~~said~~ the seawater to thereby ~~to~~ obtain the chlorine-containing substance, and said applying of the microbe-separation ~~microbe separation~~ treatment ~~is performed~~ comprises applying the microbe-separation treatment to ~~said~~ the seawater chlorinated in said applying of the ~~electrolytic circulation system~~ chlorination.

26. **(Currently Amended)** The detoxification method ~~for purifying seawater~~ according to claim 22,

wherein ~~said~~ the chlorine-containing substance is composed by chlorine, sodium hypochlorite, sodium chlorite, chloric acid, or their ions or sodium chloride.

27-32. **(Canceled)**

33. **(Currently Amended)** A detoxification apparatus for purifying seawater stored in a ballast water tank by removing microbes from the ~~in~~ seawater, said detoxification apparatus comprising:

a microbe-separation unit that applies a microbe-separation treatment by filtration or centrifugal separation for removing comparatively large microbes present in ~~said~~ the seawater, ~~said~~ the filtration being performed by running ~~said~~ the seawater through a filter ~~or the like~~;

either one of chlorination means or oxidization means, said chlorination means for producing a chlorine-containing substance from ~~said~~ the seawater and feeding ~~said~~ the chlorine-containing substance into ~~said~~ the seawater to thereby kill microbes, and said oxidization means for adding an oxidizing substance to ~~said~~ the seawater; and

wherein ~~said~~ the seawater previously treated in said microbe-separation unit and said chlorination means or said oxidization means is discharged out of ~~said~~ the ballast water tank.

34. **(Currently Amended)** A detoxification apparatus for purifying seawater stored in a ballast water tank by removing microbes in the seawater, said detoxification apparatus comprising:

a microbe-separation unit that applies a microbe-separation treatment by filtration or centrifugal separation for removing comparatively large microbes present in ~~said~~ the seawater, the ~~said~~ filtration being performed by running ~~said~~ the seawater through a filter ~~or the like~~;

either one of chlorination means or oxidization means, said chlorination means for producing a chlorine-containing substance from ~~said~~ the seawater and feeding ~~said~~ the chlorine-containing substance into ~~said~~ the seawater to thereby kill microbes, and said oxidization means for adding an oxidizing substance to ~~said~~ the seawater; and

wherein ~~said~~ the seawater previously treated in said microbe-separation unit and said chlorination means or said oxidization means is circulated to ~~said~~ the ballast water tank.

35. **(Currently Amended)** The detoxification apparatus ~~for purifying seawater~~ according to claim 33, further ~~comprising~~ comprising:

a mechanical treatment unit for applying a mechanical treatment to ~~said~~ the seawater to damage and kill microbes present ~~therein in~~ said mechanical treatment unit being located downstream or upstream of said microbe-separation unit.

36-53. **(Canceled)**

54. **(Currently Amended)** The detoxification method ~~for purifying seawater~~ according to claim 23,

further ~~comprising a step for~~ comprising:

applying a mechanical-treatment to ~~said~~ the seawater for damaging microbes in ~~said~~ the seawater thereby to kill microbes before or after said ~~step for~~ applying of the microbe-separation treatment.

55. **(Currently Amended)** The detoxification method ~~for purifying seawater~~ according to claim 23,

wherein said applying of the chlorination ~~is performed in~~ comprises applying the chlorination in an electrolytic circulation system in which all or part of ~~said~~ the seawater stored in ~~said~~ the ballast water tank is introduced into a storing tank and circulated through a circulation line between ~~said~~ the storing tank and an electrolyzer for electrolyzing ~~said~~ the seawater to thereby ~~to~~ obtain the chlorine-containing substance, and said applying of the microbe-separation ~~microbe separation~~ treatment ~~is performed to said~~ comprises applying the microbe-separation treatment to the seawater chlorinated in said ~~electrolytic circulation system~~ applying of the chlorination.

56. **(Currently Amended)** The detoxification method ~~for purifying seawater~~ according to claim 23,

wherein ~~said~~ the chlorine-containing substance is composed by chlorine, sodium hypochlorite, sodium chlorite, chloric acid, or their ions or sodium chloride.

57-60. **(Canceled)**

61. **(Currently Amended)** The detoxification apparatus ~~for purifying seawater~~ according to claim 34, further ~~comprising~~ comprising:

a mechanical treatment unit for applying a mechanical treatment to ~~said~~ the seawater to damage and kill microbes present ~~therein~~ therein, said mechanical treatment unit being located ~~in~~ downstream or upstream of said microbe-separation unit.

62. **(New)** The liquid detoxification method according to claim 4, wherein said applying of the microbe-separation treatment comprises applying the microbe-separation treatment by filtration.